

Harkin-Led Investments Have Restored Iowa's Main Streets

"Main Street Iowa helps preserve our state's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize small towns. As far as federal investments go, Main Street Iowa is in a class by itself. It is a smart program, effective in its execution, and it has a contagious effect. The improvements made with Main Street funding touch communities and their residents in very real ways."—**Senator Tom Harkin**



In August 2007, Senator Harkin visited Main Street Waterloo.

More than 85 different communities in Iowa have been able to revitalize downtown communities and preserve the small town Iowa history as the result of Main Street grants. From restoration of the Garland Hotel in Bedford, placed on the register of historic places in 1977 but left in disrepair until 2004, to the City Theatre in Elkador saved from demolition and now returned to daily use as a movie theatre, to restoration of the E.E. Warren Opera House in Greenfield and the Black Hawk Hotel in Cedar Falls, Main Street grants have preserved local history and returned dilapidated buildings to active use.

Since 2002, Senator Harkin has secured nearly \$5 million dollars in federal funds for the Main Street Iowa program. These funds have in turn generated **more than \$36 million in direct private investment**, providing one-on-one assistance to hundreds of downtown business owners. These federal investments have resulted in a **72:1** multiplier effect within the communities in job creation and increased commercial activity downtown.

Tom Harkin's Commitment to Main Street, a Timeline of Action:

2002: \$500,000 to Nine Main Street Iowa communities, resulting in 15 building projects from new construction to total building restorations in:

- Adel
- Cedar Falls
- Central City
- Dubuque
- Elkader
- Greenfield
- Sigourney
- State Center



State Center before ...



... and after Main Street restoration.

2004: \$500,000 to Nine Main Street Iowa communities, resulting in more than five million dollars in building improvements, façade rehabilitation, infill construction, and compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) in:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| • Bedford | • Jewell |
| • Burlington | • State Center |
| • Charles City | • Waterloo |
| • Corning | • West Des Moines |
| • Dubuque | |

2005: \$500,000 to 10 Main Street Iowa communities, resulting in more than \$2.7 million in downtown improvements for window and masonry restoration, façade restoration, and total building rehabilitation in:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • Bonaparte | • Keokuk |
| • Central City | • Mason City |
| • Dubuque | • Mount Pleasant |
| • Dunlap | • State Center |
| • Elkader | • Waterloo |

2006: \$1million to 13 Main Street Iowa communities, resulting in more than \$2.7 million in improvements for housing, building stabilization and renovation, fire safety, and façade work in:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| • Bonaparte | • Jewell |
| • Burlington | • Marshalltown |
| • Cedar Falls | • Mason City |
| • Central City | • Oskaloosa |
| • Corning | • West Branch |
| • Dubuque | • West Des Moines |
| • Hampton | |

2008 – 2009: \$1.5 million to 17 Main Street Iowa communities, resulting in \$4.2 million in total investments including façade renovations and stabilization including the Clock Tower in Bloomfield and the Spencer Community and the CARDACO Building in Dubuque. Communities included:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| • Burlington | • Hampton |
| • Dubuque | • Oskaloosa |
| • Greenfield | • Ottumwa |
| • State Center | • West Des Moines |
| • Story City | • Woodbine |
| • Waterloo | |



Woodbine Whitmore Building before ...



...and after Main Street funding.

2010: \$974,000 to 17 Main Street Iowa communities, resulting in \$8.2 million in total investments including \$100,000 of the \$2 million investment for geothermal heating and cooling system in Fayette and in:

- Bloomfield
- Cedar Falls
- Davenport
- Dubuque
- Jewell
- Mason City
- State Center
- Washington
- West Union
- Woodbine.

2011 to Present:

Remaining funds have supported 19 projects in **Main Street Iowa communities** resulting in \$12.8 million in total investments in Ames, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Colfax, Des Moines, Dubuque, Jewell, Le Mars, Manning, Marshalltown, Mount Pleasant, Mount Vernon, Ottumwa, State Center, Washington, Waterloo, West Branch, West Union, and Woodbine. These awards led to restoration of the historic Union Block building in Mount Pleasant, which has major civil rights historic significance and was endangered by a fire in 2011.

To stay up-to-date on these and other issues, please visit <http://www.harkin.senate.gov/>, Senator Harkin's Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/tomharkin> or follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/SenatorHarkin>.